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Michigan manufacturers seek relief at joint Senate and House hearing

LANSING – At the start of Michigan Manufacturing Week, a joint Senate and House panel on Monday heard testimony from small-business owners and manufacturers regarding the governor’s proposed restructuring of the state’s Single Business Tax, said state Sen. Nancy Cassis, chair of the Senate Finance Committee.

Small-business owners, manufacturers, insurance agencies and bankers from the northwest Michigan region gave mixed testimony regarding the impact of the proposed tax shift on their individual companies.

“We know that manufacturing and the Big 3 were hit especially hard in the national recession,” said Cassis, R-Novi. “Tax relief can play an important role in restoring the ability of Michigan manufacturers to successfully compete. But, we must take care to not pick winners and losers or favor any taxpayer or special interest over another.”

Michigan manufacturers are responsible for more than 700,000 direct manufacturing jobs, making the state a manufacturing leader in the world.

“Michigan owes a great deal to our manufacturers,” Cassis said. “It is these companies that are the foundation of our state’s economy and they need help – tax relief can give that help. However, in order to stimulate Michigan’s sagging economy, create jobs, foster business investment and make our economy more competitive. We should avoid shifting tax burdens and focus on tax relief for all.

“The governor’s plan could have far reaching effects, and we are engaged in a deliberative and thorough review to ensure whatever reform is enacted will take Michigan forward.”

The next joint hearing on the governor’s SBT proposal will take place Monday, May 16, at 1 p.m. in the Kalamazoo Public Library, Van Deusen Room, 315 S. Rose St., in Kalamazoo.

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